

5           a converter configured to receive the first dc signal  
6           and to provide a converter output, and configured to receive  
7           at least one control input;

8           an output transformer configured to receive the  
9           converter output and to provide a third ac signal having a  
10          current suitable for welding;

11          an output circuit configured to receive the third ac  
12          signal and providing a welding signal; and

13          a controller, including a power factor correction  
14 (C)       circuit, configured to provide at least one control signal  
15          to the [inverter] converter.

1 C2       9. (Amended) A method of providing a welding current  
2          from a range of input voltages, comprising:

3           converting and power factor correcting [the] an ac  
4           signal to a second ac signal; and

5           transforming the second ac signal into a third ac  
6          signal having a current suitable for welding[; and

7           receiving the ac input and providing an auxiliary power  
8          signal source at a preselected control power signal voltage,  
9          regardless of the magnitude of the ac input signal].

1           10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the  
2          step of converting the ac input signal includes the steps of  
3          converting the [dc] ac signal to a dc signal and inverting the dc  
4          signal to provide the second ac signal.

1 C3       12. (Amended) The method of claim 9, [wherein the]  
2          including a step of providing [the] auxiliary power signal  
3          [includes the step of] by transforming the ac input signal.

1 C4       17. (Amended) A welding power source for providing a  
2          welding current from a range of input voltages, comprising:  
3           rectifier means for receiving an ac input and providing  
4          a first dc signal;